

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 DHA-02 HEW-04 EUR-12 /088 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4774

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EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, HA
SUBJECT: DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN HAITI

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 1444

1. SUMMARY. OVER NEXT FOUR MONTHS, VOLAGS AND RED CROSS ESTIMATE ON VERY PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE BASIS THAT MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AREAS OF HAITI -- NORTHWEST, LA GONAVE AND AQUIN-COTE DE FER REGION -- MAY REQUIRE UP TO A MAXIMUM ADDITIONAL 1200 TONS OF FOOD PER MONTH. ADDITION OF 1200 TONS PER MONTH WOULD DOUBLE CURRENT COVERAGE TO ABOUT 356,000 PERSONS TO BE USED PRIMARILY FOR FFW PROJECTS. WE AND VOLAGS UNANIMOUS THAT NO MORE FOOD SHOULD MOVE UNTIL GOH HAS ESTABLISHED EFFECTIVE DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION SINCE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ALREADY SATURATED. WE ARE CHECKING OTHER BILATERAL DONOR INTEREST AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO BRING MUCH GREATER DEGREE OF PRECISION ON ACTUAL NEEDS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS BREAKDOWN OF VERY PRELIMINARY AND TENTATIVE VOLAG PROJECTIONS OF ADDITIONAL FOOD NEEDS
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OVER NEXT FOUR MONTHS (BEGINNING MAY) FOR MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AREAS OF HAITI -- NORTHWEST, LA GONAVE AND AQUIN-COTE DE FER REGION. FIGURES ARE UNDER REVIEW AND SUBJECT TO REVISION.

A. NORTHWEST: 360 - 720 ADDITIONAL TONS OF FOOD PER MONTH. MAXIMUM FIGURE WOULD DOUBLE FOOD

RECIPIENTS FROM CURRENT NUMBER OF 130,000 TO 260,000
OUT OF ESTIMATED TOTAL POPULATION OF 300,000.

B. GONAVE: 125 ADDITIONAL TONS PER MONTH. THIS
WOULD DOUBLE FOOD RECIPIENTS FROM 20,000 TO 40,000 OUT
OF ESTIMATED TOTAL POPULATION OF 50,000.

C. ACQUIN-COTE DE FER REGION: 300 TONS PER MONTH
(POSSIBLE NEW PROGRAM) TO PROVIDE FOOD TO APPROXIMATELY
55,000 PEOPLE OUT OF ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 275,000.

3. IN ADDITION TO GENERALIZED VOLAG ESTIMATES FOR MOST
SERIOUSLY AFFECTED AREAS, RED CROSS HAS IDENTIFIED 40,000
PEOPLE IN SAME AREAS WHO ARE CONSIDERED TO BE IN MOST
VULNERABLE CATEGORY (INFANTS, PREGNANT AND LACTATING
MOTHERS) FOR WHOM 20 TONS POWDERED MILK AND 15 TONS
PROTEIN RICH FOOD PER MONTH IS NEEDED IN ADDITION TO THE
120 TONS OF NFDM JUST APPROVED UNDER PL 480 TITLE II.

4. WE EXPECT IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO IDENTIFY REQUIREMENTS
FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER ISOLATED POCKETS
OF DISTRESS INCLUDING CENTRAL PLATEAU, NORTHEAST
OF SOUTHERN PENINSULA.

5. ONLY ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF FOOD CITED ABOVE WOULD BE
INTENDED FOR DIRECT RELIEF. BALANCE WOULD BE USED FOR
FOOD FOR WORK PROJECTS ALREADY DESIGNED BY VOLAGS FOR
MOST OF THE AFFECTED AREAS AND READY TO GO. FOOD SHOULD
ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY SEEDS AND HAND TOOLS TO BE USED IN
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PREPARATION FOR NEXT PLANTING AND HARVEST; DATA NECESSARY
TO SUPPORT THIS PARTICULAR ASPECT OF RELIEF PROGRAM SHOULD
BE AVAILABLE END OF MAY.

6. WE, VOLAGS, AND WFP ARE UNANIMOUS THAT ADDITIONAL FOOD
REQUIREMENTS -- ONCE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED -- SHOULD NOT BE MOVED HERE
UNTIL GOH CREATES EFFECTIVE DROUGHT RELIEF ORGANIZATION WITH
ADEQUATE FUNDS, ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY, SUPPORTIVE
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE FACILITIES. CURRENT DISTRIBUTION
SYSTEM OF VOLAGS AND GOH FULLY SATURATED WITH PRESENT
RATE OF RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, GOH RESPONDING
WELL TO OUR INITIATIVES AND WE CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR SPEEDY
GOH ACTION.

7. AS SOON AS EFFECTIVE RELIEF ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED,
WE COULD ACCELERATE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD STOCKS ALREADY ON
HAND SO AS TO REACH MUCH HIGHER LEVELS SUGGESTED ABOVE. ON BASIS
CURRENT LEVEL OF FOOD STOCKS, WE CALCULATE ACCELERATED
RATE OF DISTRIBUTION COULD BE SUSTAINED FOR 60 DAYS. THAT

PERIOD SHOULD ALLOW TIME TO LOCATE AND RECEIVE NEW SOURCES OF FOOD FROM U.S. AND OTHER DONORS.

8. OTHER BILATERAL DONORS INCLUDING CANADA, FRANCE AND GERMANY INTERESTED IN ASSISTING IN CURRENT EMERGENCY. WE WILL BE EXPLORING EXTENT AND NATURE THEIR INTEREST AND REPORTING HOW THEY FIT INTO THE PICTURE.

9. WE WISH TO REITERATE THAT DIMENSIONS OF FOOD REQUIREMENTS ARE STILL VERY VAGUE. GOH WILL NOT BEGIN TO COME UP WITH HARD NUMBERS UNTIL DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED. VOLAGS HAVE PROVIDED US ESTIMATES BUT SOME OF THEM ARE CONTRADICTORY RELATING IN PART TO THOROUGHNESS OF VOLAGS STUDIES. CARE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT ON NEEDS OF NORTHWEST AND WILL RE-STUDY QUESTION THIS WEEK. SIMILARLY, CRS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONS NEED IN SOUTH. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP PRECISE FIGURES AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN.
UDHAM

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